



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT:

FAMILY-DRIVEN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

BY:

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SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators
Base Service Unit Directors

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to advise counties that family-driven family support services pilot projects initiated in 1987-88 and 1989-90 will continue to be eligible for 100% state financial participation.

INTRODUCTION:

A primary mission of the Department of Public Welfare is to promote, improve, and sustain the quality of family life. The basis of this mission is that the family is the primary unit for nurturing emotional support, economic support, socialization, and care of its members, including those with mental retardation. County mental retardation services should serve to acknowledge and enhance the role of the family as the primary and most natural care givers, and should assist families in providing a supportive, nurturing environment so that permanence within the home is assured. In order to continue to address this mission, the Office of Mental Retardation is announcing its commitment to the future support of family-driven family support services by providing 100% state financial participation.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in fiscal year 1987-88, the Department initiated funding for family-driven family support services (FD/FSS) in 11 County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs with 100% state financial participation.

Family-Driven refers to a method of providing services whereby the family and/or the person with mental retardation, rather than the service system, are given the responsibility for deciding which services will best address the family's specific needs. In a family-driven model, family members also have a primary responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating, and setting priorities for services to address their specific needs.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM MANAGER

In fiscal year 1989-90, the Department expanded this effort by funding 15 new FD/FSS projects with 100% state financial participation. In addition, in fiscal year 1989-90, projects which were initiated in Clearfield-Jefferson and Centre counties in fiscal year 1987-88 received expansion funding. The 100% state financial participation for FD/FSS projects is consistent with the provisions of Section 507(a)(2) of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966 as amended (50 P.S. 4507(a)(2)).

POLICY;

FAMILY-DRIVEN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

6000.151. Definitions.

(a) Family Support Services include those services defined in 55 Pa. Code CH. 6350 titled "Family Resources Services" and subsequent statements of policy such as Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 99-83-24, titled: DPW Policy on Support Services for Persons with Mental Retardation and Their Families and Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 99-84-21, titled: Supplement Agreement to the DPW Policy on Support Services for Persons with Mental Retardation and Their Families.

(b) Family Driven is a method of providing family support services whereby the family or the person with mental retardation, rather than the service system, are given the responsibility for deciding which services will best address the family's specific needs. In a family-driven model, family members also have a primary responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating, and setting priorities on services to address their specific needs.

6000.152. Funding of family-driven family support services.

Family-driven family support services (FD/FSS) pilot projects initiated in 1987/88 and 1989/90 are eligible for 100% state financial participation up to the level they were funded as pilot projects. They include only those projects that were categorically funded as a result of their submission of a proposal in response to Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 00-87-15, issued October 6, 1987, and titled: Request for Proposals to Develop Family-Driven Family Support Services Pilot Projects, or Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 00-89-09, issued April 19, 1989, titled: Request for Proposals to Develop or Expand Family-Driven Family Support Services Pilot Projects. Funding for family support services which are not integrated into an approved family-driven project will continue to be reimbursed by the Department on a 90/10 matching basis.

6000.153. Accounting for expenditures.

Counties sponsoring an approved 100% state-funded FD/FSS program should account for expenditures for that program separate from expenditures for family support services provided with 90/10 funding.

6000.154. Monitoring.

The Office of Mental Retardation will monitor the progress of the projects on an ongoing basis to ensure that the family-driven nature of the projects is maintained.